

WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2005
Fairbanks Park Amphitheater
Terre Haute, IN

Voting Members Present: Allen County – Paul McAfee Cass County – Mercedes Brugh DNR – Steve Morris Huntington County – Mike Mettler Miami County – Ken Einselen Parke County – Anne Lynk Sullivan County – John Gettinger Tippecanoe County – Norman (Lucky) Neiburger Vigo County – Keith Ruble (alternate) Warren County – Louise Jewell		Voting Members Absent w/o Proxy: Carroll County Fountain County Gibson County Jay County Knox County Posey County Vermillion County
Proxies Keith Huffman – Wells County Ernest Passwater – Wabash County Steve Krull – Adams County		Non-Voting Members Not Present IDEM INDOT Indiana Office of Tourism
Non-Voting Members Present: DNR-DHPA		Guests: Don Jewell Stan Lambert – Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
Commission and DNR Staff Present: Ron James – WRHCC Executive Director Karen Hanes – DNR Outdoor Recreation		

CALL TO ORDER

John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. John asked everyone to introduce themselves and the county they represent.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JULY MEETING MINUTES

John asked for approval of the July 13th meeting minutes. Norman (Lucky) Neiburger made a motion to approve the minutes. Ken Einselen seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John Gettinger reported that he attended the Natural Resources Summer Study Committee at Pokagon State Park on September 13, 2005 and was able to speak to state legislators about the WRHCC.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report was sent out with the meeting agenda. Ron James reported he also attended the Natural Resources Summer Study Committee. Ron will be a speaker at the Indiana Heritage and Archaeology Conference in October as well as the Indiana Academy of Science Conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative no report

Water Trail: Mike Mettler reported the committee has decided on specific criteria for the maps. Chairman Gettinger asked if a timeline could be established to complete this project. Steve Morris of DNR/Outdoor Recreation suggested a target completion date of the first Saturday in June for National Trails Day. A motion was made to approve this target date, Ken Einselen seconded the motion and it carried.

River Road/Heritage: Louise Jewell reported they would like to have a map developed of all the scenic river roads for every county. This may attract visitors to the Wabash River. Paul McAfee made a motion to begin work on this project and Mike Mettler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wabash River Video: Ron James reported that the Wabash Valley Association had pledged \$20,000 for the video. The video is still in production. WFYI hopes the release will be for the spring or summer.

Education: John Gettinger announced an educational raft trip being held October 3-6 for eighth grade students in Sullivan County. Adults are invited to attend on Monday, October 3rd at 4 PM.

Newsletter: Ron James reported the L'Esprit de Ouabache newsletter is ready for printing.

Corridor Brochure: Steve Morris reported that 100,000 of the third edition of the Corridor Brochure is now in stock at the warehouse.

Finance: Steve Morris reported that the funds for the Corridor Brochure were not encumbered from 2004-2005 fiscal year and will be taken from the 2005-2006 funds. Steve has discussed the issue with Accounting and Budget divisions of the DNR. Norman Neiburger suggested a Commission member address the issue with DNR Director Kyle Hupfer. Louise Jewell nominated Norman to look into the issue and Mercedes seconded the motion and it carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Wabash River Heritage Paddlefest: John Gettinger reported that both he and Ron attended the paddlefest. Over 500 people attended and the rally went very well. John stated the event would be held again next year.

Membership Purchases: Ron James asked for approval to purchase the following memberships:

River Network	\$100
Little River Project	\$100
Banks of the Wabash	\$100
Little Turtle Waterway	\$100
Historic Forks of the Wabash	\$ 35
Land Trusts (5 others on corridor)	\$ 15 each

The Commission approved the list

Wabash River Symposium The Wabash River Symposium, sponsored by the Rivers Institute at Hanover College and the Indiana Academy of Science, will be held on October 6 and 7 at St. Mary of the Woods College near Terre Haute. Executive Director Ron James will be a speaker at one of the sessions.

Finalize locations for Commission meetings May, July & September, 2006

May - Lafayette

July – Huntington

September – New Harmony

NEW BUSINESS

Commission representation renewals: There was some discussion about several counties that do not have representation on the commission. Ron James expressed willingness to contact county commissioners. Steve Morris noted that all counties will need to make new appointments by the beginning of 2006.

Indiana Mainstreet/O'Brien Conference on Historic Preservation: The conference will be held October 20, 21 and 22. Karen Hanes distributed information about the conference. Ron James encouraged commission members to attend. Ron will be one of the speakers at the conference.

Select County representatives to write articles for next Reflections: Cass County, Tippecanoe County, and Allen County were randomly selected to submit articles for the next Wabash Reflections e-newsletter. Articles of approximately 200 words should be submitted to Ron James by the 4th week of October. Ron will also get the information up on the website.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held November 9, 2005 at the Indiana Government Center, Indianapolis.